

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01

SP-02 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AGR-05

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 LAB-04 CAB-02 DODE-00

DOT-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SS-15 ACDA-05 /124 W

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R 290831Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7640

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 4-6; PREVENTING
POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

REF: STATE 17162

1. AFTER BEING PRESENTED WITH IDEAS IN RDFTEL (JAN 28),
UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DIV DIR ICHIOKA TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE
APPRECIATED AND SHARED US CONCERN OVER TREND TOWARD
POLITICIZATION IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. WHILE HE WOULD
HAVE TO CONSULT WITH COLLEAGUES BEFORE GIVING FORMAL GOJ
REACTION, HE FELT PERSONALLY THAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP WAS
BEST FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS QUESTION, AND ASKED
WHETHER US WAS PLANNING TO HAVE ITEM ON POLITICIZATION
PLACED ON AGENDA.

2. COMMENTING INFORMALLY, ICHIOKA STRESSED THAT APPROACHES
TO DEAL WITH POLITICIZATION HAD TO START FROM THE PREMISE
THAT THE US, JAPAN, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE
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PART OF A SMALL MINORITY. WHILE NOT DEFEATIST IN OUTLOOK,

HE FORESAW A LONG UPHILL STRUGGLE IN PERSUADING NUMERICALLY POWERFUL LDC'S TO SET POLITICS APART FROM TECHNICAL WORK OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. JAPAN HAD LONG AND SOMETIMES BITTER EXPERIENCE WRESTLING WITH ISSUE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN SEARCH OF A SOLUTION. AT THE MOMENT, ICHIOKA WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEM OF "DEMOCRATIZATION" OF ILO, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE TAKEN UP DURING POLITICIZATION DISCUSSIONS.

3. COMMENT: ICHIOKA WILL PASS THE IDEAS IN REFTEL AROUND FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE ASKED THAT HE BE SURE TO BRIEF NEW AMBASSADOR TSURUMI, WHO WILL BE ARRIVING GENEVA SHORTLY BEFORE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN.

4. TWO ADDITIONAL WAYS OF COPING WITH POLITICIZATION HAVE OCCURRED TO US. ONE WOULD INVOLVE SPLITTING BOTH AGENDAS AND THE PARTICIPANTS INTO TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL SEGMENTS, THEREBY ENABLING POLITICIANS AND DIPLOMATS TO WRANGLE OVER POLITICAL ISSUES WHILE SPECIALISTS PROCEEDED WITH SUBSTANCE OF MEETINGS. THE OTHER METHOD WOULD PLACE FAR GREATER EMPHASIS THAN WE DO NOW ON REFERRING CONTENTIOUS PROBLEMS TO THE UN LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE FOR ADVISORY OPINION TO BE RELAYED BACK PROMPTLY TO AGENCY INVOLVED.
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